GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3884
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
BARREN LAND
Moghe Shri Krishna Murari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of hectares of land is lying barren in the country;

(b) if so, the total area of such barren land, state-wise;

(c) whether the National Advisory Council has suggested for using the barren land in agro- forestry;

(d) if so, the details of the measures so suggested and the actions taken by the Government thereon, till date;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal or considering any proposal to promote the productions of Ratanjot so that this barren land could be utilized for generating Biofuel; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): As per recent Wastelands Atlas of India-2005 brought out by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad using satellite imagery data, an area of 552.69 lakh ha. in the country is estimated to be wastelands/barren lands. The State-wise details on the extent of these wastelands are at Annexure-I

(c) & (d): The National Advisory Council in its recommendations has included the use of wasteland for agro-forestry and other purposes.

The agro-forestry is one of the component under various watershed Development programmes being implemented in different States namely:

(1) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(2) River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)

(3) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

(4) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS)

(5) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

(6) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(7) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

(e)&(f): Ministry of Rural Development has submitted a proposal to Planning Commission to launch a National Mission on Bio-diesel, involving plantation of Jatropha on 4 lakh ha. wasteland including 2 lakh ha. degraded forest wasteland and 2 lakh ha. non −forest wasteland.

ANNEXURE-I

State-wise extent of Wastelands / Barren lands

(Area in Lakh hectare)

Sl.No	States / UTs	Area of Wastelands

1. Andhra Pradesh 45.27
2. Arunachal Pradesh 18.18
3. Assam 14.03
4. Bihar 5.44
5. Chhattisgarh 7.58
6. Goa 0.53
7 Gujarat 20.38
8. Haryana 3.27
9. Himachal Pradesh 28.34
10. Jammu & Kashmir 70.20
11. Jharkhand 11.17
12. Karnataka 13.54
13. Kerala 1.79
14. Madhya Pradesh 57.13
15. Maharashtra 49.28
16. Manipur 13.17
17. Meghalaya 3.41
18. Mizoram 4.47
19. Nagaland 3.71
20. Orissa 18.95
21. Punjab 1.17
22. Rajasthan 101.45
23. Sikkim 3.81
24. Tamil Nadu 17.31
25. Tripura 1.32
26. Uttranchal 16.10
27. Uttar Pradesh 16.98
28. West Bengal 4.40
29. Union Territory 0.31
Total: 552.69